Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9105 INFO AMCONGEN MELBOURNE

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CONFIDENTIAL JAKARTA 8172

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: BDIS, ID

SUBJECT: CAMEO-NIXA TRADE COMPLAINT

REF: (A) STATE 154928 (B) JAKARTA 7605 (C) MELBOURNE 0826

1. AFTER SENDING REF (B) EMBOFF HAD SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATIONS WITH INDAUS (JAKARTA) REPRESENTATIVE AND INDAUS (AUSTRALIA) BOARD CHAIRMAN DAVID GILBERT. CONVERSATION WITH INDAUS (JAKARTA) REP SUBSTANTIALLY CONFIRMED FEARS EXPRESSED REF (B) PARA 5. APPARENTLY IN ORDER SECURE 100.000 TON UREA ORDER WORTH \$41.5 MILLION INDAUS (JAKARTA) GROUP HAD PROMISED DEPT. OF TRADE OFFICIALS "EXTRA CURRICULAR" PAYMENT. WHEN GUNN FAILED PAY COMMISSION ON FIRST 10,000 TON SHIPMENT INDAUS (JAKARTA) UNABLE MEET ITS COMMITMENTS TO HIGH LEVEL TRADE DEPT. OFFICIALS. THIS FAILURE TO PAY UP AS PROMISED LED TO CONSIDERABLE LOSS OF FACE--AND POSSIBLY BLACKLISTING--FOR INDAUS (JAKARTA) GROUP AND TO CANCELLATION REMAINING 90,000 TON ORDER. INDAUS (JAKARTA) REP ALSO SHOWED EMBOFF LETTER FROM LOUIS DIBALSI, PRESIDENT OF MILFORD CHEMICAL AND SOLVENT CORP, CONFIRMING THAT WILLIAM HOUSSAIN (REF (B), PARA 6) IS REPRESENTING MILFORD'S INTERESTS CONFIDENTIAL

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IN THIS CASE. MILFORD POSTED SECOND PERFORMANCE BOND WHICH

GUNN PRESENTED DEPT. OF TRADE IN ORDER BYPASS INDAUS, BUT HOUSSAIN WITHDREW THIS BOND WHEN HE DISCOVERED GUNN HAD NO CONTRACT.

- 2. JUNE 27, PERSUANT REF (C), EMBOFF CONTACTED DAVID GILBERT, CHAIRMAN INDAUS (AUSTRALIA) WHO THEN VISITING JAKARTA. GILBERT INDICATED INDAUS (AUSTRALIA) NEVER HAD ANY RELATIONSHIP WITH GUNN. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT ALTHOUGH INDAUS "CONTRACT" FOR REMAINING 90,000 TON UREA HAD BEEN CANCELLED, THE "AWARD" REMAINED IN EFFECT, AND THAT INDAUS (AUSTRALIA) WAS IN PROCESS RENEGOTIATING WITH PRESIDENTIAL PALACE FOR A CONTRACT GIVING THE 90,000 TON BALANCE TO EUROPEAN SUPPLIERS FRIENDLY TO INDAUS (AUSTRALIA).
- 3. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT PLEASE CONTACT HOUSSAIN AND/OR MILFORD TO OBTAIN THEIR INDEPENDENT VIEWS OF GUNN TRANSACTION. SECONDLY, EMBASSY WISHES WITHDRAW ITS SUGGESTION PARA 6 REF (B) THAT GUNN BE ENCOURAGED VISIT INDONESIA. INDAUS (JAKARTA) REP STATED THAT IF GUNN HAD REMAINED ONE DAY LONGER IN JAKARTA ON LAST VISIT, INDAUS GROUP HAD ARRANGED FOR GOI IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES RESTRAIN HIM FROM DEPARTING. (APPARENTLY DURING THIS VISIT GUNN'S JAKARTA AGENTS FORCED HIM AGREE TO WITHDRAW RESTRAINING ORDER ON CASHIER'S CHECK--COMMISSION PAYMENT--BUT HE INSTEAD SUCCEEDED IN SLIPPING OUT OF TOWN ON LAST FLIGHT.) INDAUS (JAKARTA) REP'S FINAL COMMENT WAS "KEEP GUNN OUT OF INDONESIA OR HE MAY GET SHOT*".

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